

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

CLAIM 1 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A bicycle derailleur comprising:
a base member structured to be nonrotatably mounted to a bicycle frame;
a link mechanism having a first portion and a second portion, wherein the first portion of the link mechanism is coupled to the base member through a first pivot shaft, and wherein the second portion of the link mechanism is disposed above the first portion of the link mechanism;
an outer cable sheath stopper disposed below the first pivot shaft; and
a chain guide coupled to the second portion of the link mechanism so that the chain guide moves relative to the base member to move a chain among a plurality of sprockets.

CLAIM 2 (ORIGINAL): The derailleur according to claim 1 wherein the base member is structured to be mounted to the bicycle frame integrally with a wheel axle that supports a plurality of sprockets with which the derailleur cooperates.

CLAIM 3 (ORIGINAL): The derailleur according to claim 2 wherein the base member includes an opening for receiving the wheel axle therethrough.

CLAIM 4 (ORIGINAL): The derailleur according to claim 2 wherein the base member includes a projection structured to engage the bicycle frame to nonrotatably fix the base member to the bicycle frame.

CLAIM 5 (ORIGINAL): The derailleur according to claim 4 wherein the projection is structured to engage a notch formed in the bicycle frame.

CLAIM 6 (ORIGINAL): The derailleur according to claim 5 wherein the projection is structured to engage an opening formed in the bicycle frame.

CLAIM 7 (ORIGINAL): The derailleur according to claim 6 wherein the projection is shaped to engage a slit formed in the bicycle frame.

CLAIM 8 (ORIGINAL): The derailleur according to claim 1 wherein the base member is structured to be mounted to the bicycle frame independently of a wheel axle that supports a plurality of sprockets with which the derailleur cooperates.

CLAIM 9 (ORIGINAL): The derailleur according to claim 8 wherein the base member includes a projection structured to engage the bicycle frame to nonrotatably fix the base member to the bicycle frame.

CLAIM 10 (ORIGINAL): The derailleur according to claim 9 wherein the projection is structured to engage a notch formed in the bicycle frame.

CLAIM 11 (ORIGINAL): The derailleur according to claim 1 wherein the link mechanism comprises a four-point link mechanism.

CLAIM 12 (ORIGINAL): The derailleur according to claim 11 wherein the link mechanism comprises:

a first link member having a first end and a second end, wherein the first end of the first link member is rotatably coupled to the base member; and

a second link member having a first end and a second end, wherein the first end of the second link member is rotatably coupled to the base member.

CLAIM 13 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The derailleur according to claim 12 wherein the first end of the first link member is coupled to the base member through ~~[[a]]~~ the first pivot shaft, wherein the first end of the second link member is coupled to the base member through a second pivot shaft, and wherein the first pivot shaft is substantially parallel to the second pivot shaft.

CLAIM 14 (ORIGINAL): The derailleur according to claim 13 wherein the chain guide is rotatably coupled to the second end of the first link member and to the second end of the second link member.

CLAIM 15 (ORIGINAL): The derailleur according to claim 14 further comprising:
a first biasing mechanism biasing the first link member and the second link member in a rotational direction; and

a cable retaining unit disposed on at least one of the first link member and the second link member for retaining the end of an operating cable.

CLAIM 16 (ORIGINAL): The derailleur according to claim 15 wherein the link mechanism forms a parallelogram in a plane perpendicular to the first and second pivot shafts such that, as the derailleur moves from the initial state toward the end of its range of motion, the parallelogram transforms into a rectangle and then back into a parallelogram.

CLAIM 17 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The derailleur according to claim 16 ~~wherein the chain guide comprises~~ further comprising:

a linking member linked to the second ends of the first and second link members; and wherein the chain guide comprises:

a guide frame rotatably mounted to the linking member;
a pair of guide sprockets rotatably mounted within the guide frame; and
a second biasing mechanism biasing the guide frame relative to the linking member in a rotational direction.

CLAIM 18 (NEW): A bicycle derailleur comprising:

a base member structured to be nonrotatably mounted to a bicycle frame;
a link mechanism having a first portion and a second portion, wherein the first portion of the link mechanism is coupled to the base member, and wherein the second portion of the link mechanism is disposed above the first portion of the link mechanism; and
a chain guide coupled to the second portion of the link mechanism so that the chain guide moves relative to the base member to move a chain among a plurality of sprockets;
wherein the chain guide supports a lower guide sprocket for rotation around a rotational axis, wherein the rotational axis of the lower guide sprocket is located above a lowermost surface of the base member.

CLAIM 19 (NEW): A bicycle derailleur comprising:

a base member structured to be nonrotatably mounted to a bicycle frame;

a link mechanism having a first portion and a second portion, wherein the first portion of the link mechanism is coupled to the base member;

a chain guide coupled to the second portion of the link mechanism so that the chain guide moves relative to the base member to move a chain among a plurality of sprockets; and

a cable retaining unit disposed on the link mechanism for retaining an inner cable of a control cable assembly;

wherein the derailleur is operated by pulling downwardly on the cable retaining unit;.